Criteria for Producing Serials

†707. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has formulated a scheme for producing serials based on stories of famous writers;

(b) whether Prasar Bharati has fixed any norms for selection of stories and producers and features thereof; and

(c) whether priority would be given to experienced people and famous story writers of the State engaged in the field of producing serials under the scheme, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that the norms for selection of stories and producers in respect of Indian Classics series are as follows:—

(i) *Selection of Stories:* Sahitya Academy award winning works, and Jnanpith award winning writers and other prominent classics

(ii) *Producers:* International/National film and TV award winners; other eminent producers.

Establishment of Family Courts

708. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up family courts for the Union Territory of Chandigarh and other regions of the country for speedy trial of the family disputes;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women has made any recommendations in this regard; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per Family Courts Act, 1984, Family Courts are set up by the State Governments in consultation with the concerned High Courts in cities having a population of one million, and in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

other areas if the States deem it necessary. Presently 148 Family Courts have been set up in various parts of the country.

(b) and (c) Yes Sirs. The National Commission for Women has recommended setting up of Family Court in Every district. All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to take necessary action in this regard in consultation with their respective High Courts.

Vacancies of Judges in High Courts

709. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in filling up of the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to fill up the vacancies;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there was a huge backlog of cases pending in the High Courts;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of pending cases in High Courts, State-wise; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by Government to clear the backlog of cases in various High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (g) The sanctioned strength as also the number of posts lying vacant in various High Courts as on 2.3.2005 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

2. Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities. While every efforts is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

2.1 Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the